



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

December 30, 2004

Dr. Douglas Morell
Golder Associates Inc.
18300 NE Union Hill Road Suite 200
Redmond, WA 98052-3333

Dear Dr. Morell:

Re: The Department of Ecology Decision on Further Investigations at the Landsburg Mine site, Ravensdale

After thorough evaluation of technical issues raised on the Landsburg Mine site cleanup, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) is presenting its decision for work needed to progress further with the cleanup process at this site.

Ecology directs the installation of one and possibly more deep wells in the lowest level of the former mine. The decision for an additional deep well may be based on a phased approach with the results of one well, including water quality testing, helping to determine the need for an additional well. The purpose for these wells is to determine the nature of water chemistry at the deep levels in the mine and characterize residual mine water contamination - if it exists - within the mine workings following disposal of hazardous wastes in the subsidence trench in the late sixties to late seventies. These wells are designed to more fully assess the level of risk posed by the former mine, and to address continuing concerns by various stakeholders on the nature of any potential threat to groundwater resources in this area that may relate to the materials disposed in the trench or in the mine workings.

Ecology believes drilling these deep wells is the major step to be taken in addressing lingering technical concerns. If sampling shows the water is not contaminated, it should remove other concerns relating to potential deep seated contamination and its relevant deep contamination pathway from the former mine. If sampling shows water is contaminated, then the types and concentrations of contaminants can be used to assess what further investigations may be warranted or how the remedial and compliance monitoring design can proceed.



Dr. Douglas Morell

December 30, 2004

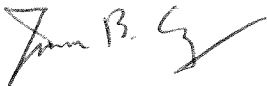
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Please note that in a meeting with City of Kent, Mayor Jim White, last November 10, 2004, his representatives spoke of a commitment by the City to pay for deep wells at this site. Although Ecology had not made any decision at the time on what additional work was to be recommended for this site, it is suggested that we explore this commitment and further map out a plan of action for cleanup at this site following Ecology's decision. We will be scheduling a meeting between the PLP Group and City of Kent representatives to have technical discussion and planning for the design and placement of these deep wells. Based upon our meeting with you and other representatives of the PLP Group last December 10, 2004, we understand that this technical planning session will be implemented to work out the design details of the wells.

Thank you for your constructive contributions to this cleanup. Ecology will work with you in implementing the appropriate regulatory and legal mechanisms for the suggested task. We are confident that after the above work is carried out, we will arrive at a cleanup plan that can be implemented smoothly. Attached is a detailed narrative with recommendations and justifications for these wells.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Jerome B. Cruz, Ph.D., L.G., L.H.G.
Toxics Cleanup Program

JC:ll

Attachments

cc: William Kombol, Palmer Coking Coal Co.
Barbara Smith, Harris & Smith
William S. Wolinski, City of Kent Public Works
Don E. Wickstrom, Director of Public Works, City of Kent
Elliot Furst, Assistant Attorney General, Ecology Division
Ching-Pi Wang, WA State Department of Ecology
Richard Bonewits, Greater Maple Valley Council
Nathan Brown, Cedar River Council